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The French colonies' effort

Paris

1917

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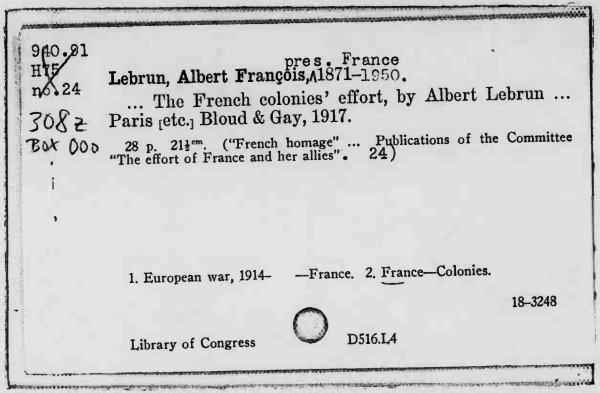
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pres. France
Lebrun, Albert François, 1871–1950.
... The French colonies' effort, by Albert Lebrun ...
Paris [etc.] Bloud & Gay, 1917.
28 p. 21½cm. ("French homage" ... Publications of the Committee "The effort of France and her allies". 24)

1. European war, 1914– —France. 2. France—Colonies.

18-3248

Library of Congress D516.L4

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TECHNICAL MICROFORM DATA

FILM SIZE: 35mm REDUCTION RATIO: 11:1 IMAGE PLACEMENT: IA (IIA) IB IIB

DATE FILMED: 8-7-97 INITIALS: PB

TRACKING # : MSH 26379

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The French
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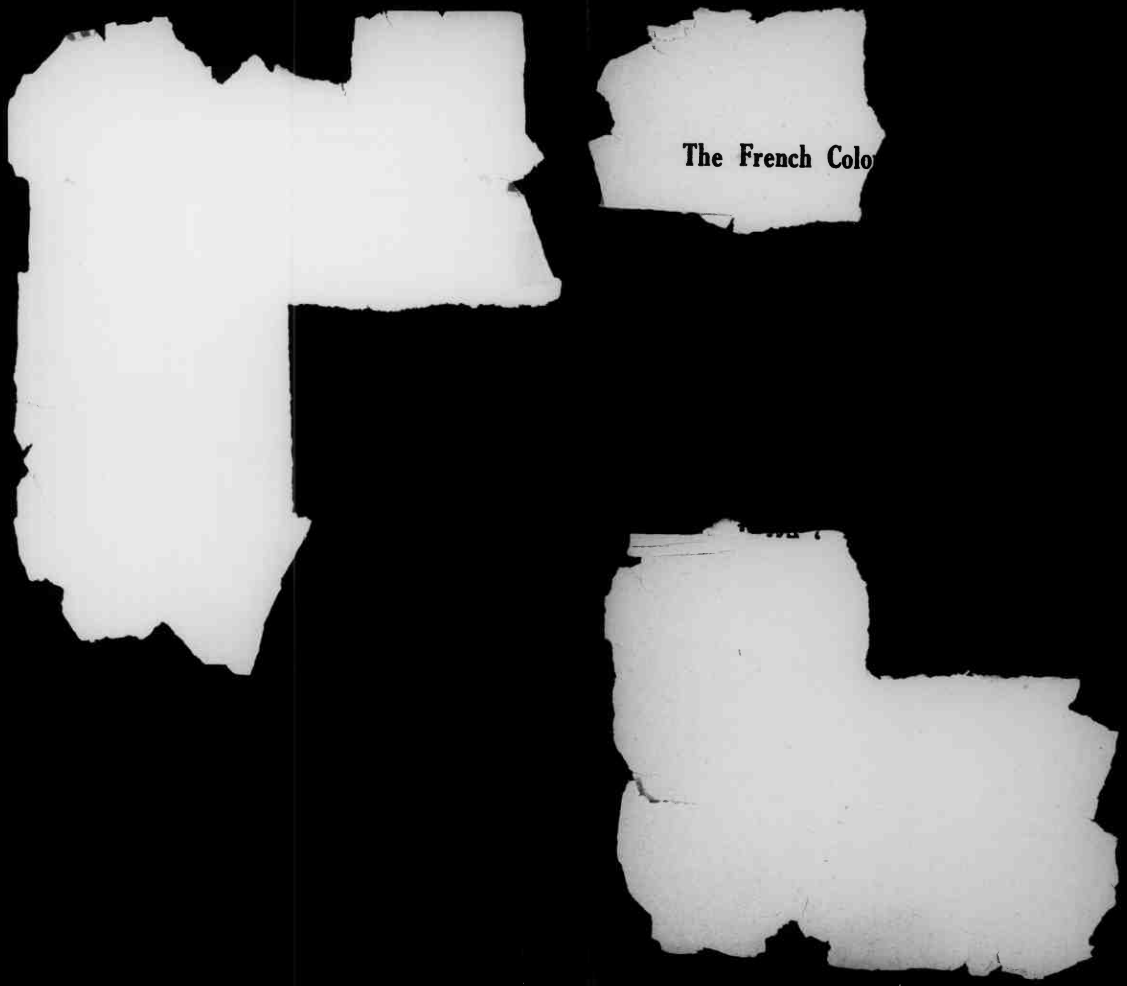
The French Colo

"FRENCH HOMAGE"

The French Colonies' Effort

BY

Albert LEBRUN
Late Minister of Colonies

PUBLICATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE
" THE EFFORT OF FRANCE AND HER ALLIES "

BLOUD & GAY
PUBLISHERS

PARIS
3, Rue Garancière

BARCELONE
35, Calle del Bruch

1917

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Emile Viard
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The French Colonies' Effort

On the occasion of the National Fête-day, July 14th, 1913, Paris was privileged to acclaim our native colonial troops. Delegations from the most widely-separated oversea territories had assembled on the field of Longchamp, to receive from the President's hands the colors their respective regiments had been found worthy to bear. Framed about by a number of battalions of our home army were to be seen the valiant supporters of Greater France, as different in color as in origin : swarthy tirailleurs from Algeria, whose brave deeds have shed upon our arms the lustre of so many campaigns : North Africa, the Crimea, Mexico, Alsace, Morocco ; Senegalese and Soudanese, lusty sons of the black races, who have helped to diffuse French peace throughout Africa, from Senegal to the Niger, from Congo to Sebou ; tirailleurs, the pacificators of Madagascar ; Annamites and Tonquinese, sons of the yellow race in the Far East ; Algerian and Senegalese Spahis, whose loose, floating burnouses have been known to turn the scale in many a doubtful combat on African soil.

And as these men, in whose veins ran the blood of such widely different races, marched by with swinging step under the folds of the tricolor, a multitudinous clamor arose — a pæan of hope and thanksgiving ; in them France hailed the glorious troops to whom she is indebted for no small a part of her colonial dominions, loyal collaborators, eager to stand shoulder to shoulder with her own sons on the battlefields of Europe, should her freedom or her honor ever come to be imperilled.

A bare twelvemonth had elapsed since this touching ceremony when war was let loose on mankind. In a fateful hour of madness, the horror of which grows with every passing day, Germany did not hesitate to hurl the nations headlong into the most dreadful adventure the imagination can conceive. Perseveringly and methodically she had got ready her mighty war machine ; she thought the time had come to set it in motion for the furtherance of her overweening ambition, and from that day Europe was confronted with the

tragedy which for over two years has shaken our continent to its very foundations :

What has happened in our colonies during these momentous times? Have they been for France, as many were inclined to fear, a source of anxiety or weakness? Or have they, like the dutiful daughters of one who for half a century had been giving them of her best, tendered her the assistance she was entitled to expect from their gratitude?

The hour has not yet arrived for a detailed account to be given of the greatness of the French Colonial effort ; the book in which that effort is being recorded in letters of gold and blood is not yet closed, and we feel a certain compunction in turning over its leaves. Deeds not words being the order of the day, it were beside the mark to indulge in lengthy tales — be they never so engrossing — the while our men at the front are giving proof of the noblest qualities of bravery, devotion and self-sacrifice, undetered by the prospect of almost certain death.

One of the most characteristic features of this war, however, is that by reason of its inordinate length we are unavoidably led to meditation and self-questioning. The strenuous and prolonged effort imposed upon us requires to be sustained by other considerations than our trust, however confident, in the justice of our cause, nor could anything contribute more effectively to this end than the activities of the *Comité des Conférences*, instituted for the purpose of keeping the Allies informed as to the effort put forth by their respective countries.

The particulars will some day be collated by History, after a patient and unbiassed study of the archives relating to the war, and embodied in an imperishable monument. For the present, we can only record the several efforts of the Allies while the battle is at its height, concerning ourselves not so much with fulness of detail, as with deriving therefrom confidence for concerted and energetic action, whereby we may be said to be doing, in a way, actual war work.

In an account of the effort accomplished by France, it was but natural that room should be made for her colonies, whose devoted collaboration has been such a comfort to her, both materially and morally, in the sore trial to which she is subjected. This task I have been requested to fulfil, and I have accepted it as a duty and as an honor, though truth to tell I feel deeply moved in dealing with such matters at the present time, I, a wanderer and an outcast, to whom for many long months has been denied the very sight of the familiar horizons of my native Lorraine.

Yet must I take heart of grace, for well do I know your hospitable city, having stopped here time and again on my way back from that delightful south coast where we men of the northern and eastern provinces of France seek shelter from our mists and snows. I have

seen Toulouse in the uneventful days of her normal life, in the blithe and fruitful activity of her thoroughfares and of her suburbs; I have seen her on holiday occasions, astir with the exuberant gaiety of her population, as, for instance at the close of the autumn manœuvres in 1913 — a memory that stands out with peculiar significance, in the light of present events.

Further encouragement lies in the fact that I am supported on this platform by a man who has done as much as any one to secure for France those oversea possessions of which she is so deservedly proud to-day, a man whose political life, ever since those far-off days when he shared Gambetta's labors, has been merged, so to speak, in our colonial history and whom those of my generation are fain to look up to as the eminent and respected leader of the great French Colonial party.

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* *

Time and again, in our pre-war conversations, did we wonder what part our colonies would play during that frightful cataclysm, should adverse fate decree its infliction upon the world. Some of us, the least inclined to be pessimistic, looked upon colonies as a heavy drag upon the mother-country, owing to the necessity of leaving in them a number of home troops whose presence would be more useful on the decisive battlefields of Europe ; others went so far as to express a fear lest taking advantage of the difficulties with which France would be confronted, the colonies might rebel, at the instigation of malcontents or disaffected persons, thus becoming a source of fresh anxiety, if not of absolute weakness ; others yet, at the thought of a war in which France should have lost the mastery of the sea, were highly perturbed as to the eventual fate of those distant lands, when left to their own resources.

To-day the issue has been decided by events, and these may be said to have fully borne out the hopes of such as reposed entire trust in our colonies and protectorates.

From the very first, with one accord, they all took their stand by the side of the mother-country, sharing her anxieties, her sufferings, her bereavements, and proclaiming by the voices of their governors and assemblies of every degree, a loyalty to France that nothing has been, nor ever will be able to undermine.

Later on, thrown back upon themselves, they labored to speed up their production, in order to relieve the mother-country of any outside cares calculated to weaken her, while at the same time, inspired by the ambition to contribute a few chapters of their own to the history of the war, they attacked and conquered the enemy at their gates.

Finally and above all, they were firmly resoved to come to France's

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assistance by sending her troops, labor, money, material and supplies of all kinds.

The above are the three points with which I propose to deal in that order.

Loyalty of the Colonies.

On August 4th 1914 our Colonial Minister sent to the Governors-General and Governors a cable informing them that Germany had declared war on France and Russia; the message ended up with the simple words: « Take all measures prescribed in case of war. »

As soon as the news was made known in every land, far and near, under the French flag, a deep thrill ran through them all. Undoubtedly the war would be attended by a period of grave difficulty; taken by surprise in the midst of their development, and needing for their prosperity a very large measure of support from the mother-country, they fully perceived what they stood to lose in the course of impending events, but they likewise realised that their own destiny was at stake as well as France's; and the fact was brought home to them more clearly still, when as early as August 4th, Germany fired the first shells to fall upon African ground, in the course of the bombardment of Bône and Philippeville by the *Breslau* and the *Goeben*.

Forthwith, a deep wave of loyalty set in on every side, and while Europeans hastened to join the different corps to which they belonged, the native reservists showed the greatest alacrity in answering the summons of the mobilization. Nay further, numerous offers of voluntary enlistment were pressed upon the authorities by the native population and by their chieftains. A spirit of purest patriotism breathed through the land, and the fiery speeches wherein the French Chambers acclaimed our valiant troops on their way to the front found a deep and reverberating echo in the proclamations voicing the unanimous feelings of our countrymen, our subjects and those under our protectorate.

« Mahomedan natives, exclaims the Governor-General of Algeria in a magnificent burst of oratory, you are eager to proclaim yourselves the sons of France. You fully appreciate the blessings she has showered upon your tribes, and you realize that your destiny is bound up with hers; henceforth you are co-sharers in her joys, her dangers, her aspirations and her hopes !... Is it necessary to remind our enemies that Moslems have shed their blood unsparingly upon French battlefields; that your fathers contracted with our men the holy brotherhood of heroism and death; are they oblivious of the fact that to this day your lusty arms and stout hearts are to be found with our own under the same colors? Great glory awaits our valiant armies! And when our African standards come home, riddled with bullets, but crowned with the laurels of victory, you will be able to claim a full share in the triumph !...

And while the troops of the 19th Army Corps were being borne in perfect safety across the Mediterranean, the appeals of prominent Mahomedans and the Presidents of native associations rang out ever more numerous in favor of voluntary enlistment.

In Morocco, caught by the war at a critical juncture, the same degree of loyalty was manifested by the population.

« We stand prepared, wrote the Sultan to the President of the Republic, to give you all the assistance you may eventually require, France and the Moorish Empire having become one and the same country. »

By a proclamation addressed to the Moorish troops sent to France, he calls upon his men, when at the front with their brothers-in-arms, « to exhibit in battle their traditional qualities of boldness, courage and endurance, to show the enemy that they are worthy of the high reputation gained by them in the course of former campaigns, and to renew the mighty deeds of their forefathers. »

And the Resident-General subsequently paid due recognition to the valiant support lent by the Sultan, the Makhzen and the native chieftains, and the loyalty of the Moorish population, who « closed around us, nor for a single moment betrayed our trust, but sent over to France a powerful contingent, bearing witness to the firm solidarity between Morocco and France. »

No less eager to help us were the peace-loving inhabitants of Tunis. « The Protectorate Government, wrote the head men of an important tribe to the Resident General at the very outbreak of hostilities, has loaded us with benefits for the past 33 years, wherefore France has become our own country and the Tunisians are her sons. Whoever presumes to attaint her honor, attacks the honor of Tunisians and of Tunis, whose fixed determination it is to remain for ever under the French protectorate. Consequently it is the duty of every native to give his life and property for the honor of the flag under which he earns his living. »

Later on, when Turkey's insane rulers, in a frenzy of overweening arrogance, proclaimed the Jehad, or Holy War, the Bey reminded his subjects, in a forceful proclamation, of their great indebtedness to the protecting Government; appealing to their unswerving loyalty, calling upon them « not to lend their ears to lying reports, but to remain calm and steadfast, trusting in the assured victory of France, her Allies and friends »; with the result that in Tunis, like in all our other Islamic possessions, anti-French propaganda met with utter insuccess.

In Western and Equatorial Africa, in which French penetration has not been so complete, and where, moreover, the tribes are more dispersed and less affected by outside happenings, the advent of war was greeted, nevertheless, with unmixed loyalty and delight. The young natives of Porto-Novo requested the Lieutenant-Governor to receive them into the ranks of the army, solemly asserting their readi-

ness to « offer France all the live forces of their ardent youth, even to the supreme sacrifice. »

And from the confines of the great desert, from Timbuctoo and from Walata, addresses were sent to Dakkar by prominent natives, expressing their « unshaken friendship and love for France, who had brought them the blessings of peace, quiet and justice. »

Nor can we read unmoved the official newspapers of those colonies, published during the early months of the war. We find in the speeches in Council of the several Governors-General and the Lieutenants-General; in their proclamations to the natives; in their addresses to the troops homeward bound, the embodiment of the marvelous spirit pervading the regions in which they are stationed, a spirit of loyalty to France and trust in her ultimate victory.

Our distant Indo-China, which by virtue of her far-off location enjoyed greater immunity from the direct effects of the war, was yet stirred during the first months by the same generous feelings as our other oversea possessions, and here again those feelings gave rise to the most touching manifestations. Verily, as the Governor-General was able to record in an address in Council, her loyalty was sincere and whole-hearted; the natives have realized once for all that the aim and purpose of France has been « the lasting betterment of the material and moral conditions of their life, their initiation to the methods of modern science, and concurrently, an ever-growing participation in the management of public affairs. That much they have clearly understood; they have believed in us; they have seen for themselves that even in the midst of the present upheaval, we have suspended none of the activities we had engaged in », and with a view to the development of the « wise and humane policy » to which they owe so much, they have been anxious in the present circumstances, to draw yet tighter the bonds uniting them with France.

It is hardly necessary to remind you, moreover, that for our old-established colonies the war was a fresh opportunity to proclaim their undying attachment to the mother-country. Our fellow-citizens beyond the seas felt the infamy of the German aggression to a like degree with ourselves; they experienced the same anxiety, the same enthusiasm, the same deep thrill, during the first fateful weeks and the passionate feelings thus aroused in their generous hearts found expression in the application to their territories of the French laws relating to military service.

Thus it came about that a war which, as our enemies thought, was to find our colonies wavering, perturbed, nay hostile perhaps in certain cases, has on the contrary but strengthened the ties between them and us. True, there have been a few solitary attempts at rebellion, such as have always occurred at intervals even in peace time: here, a few marabouts, hankering after the ill-gotten gains they derived from systematic plunder and extortion, until our authorities put an end to their nefarious practices, have kindled the flame of revolt along the edge of the desert; there, in the heart of Madagascar, a

shadowy plot was nipped in the bud before any actual harm had resulted; farther East, on the borders of Laos and Yunnan, marauding bands, undoubtedly subsidized by German emissaries, have made short incursions into our territory and committed sundry crimes. But all these attempts were promptly suppressed, nor has the customary peace of those extensive provinces been seriously disturbed at any point. They have pursued the even course of their workaday existence, exclusively concerned with speeding up the production of necessaries for themselves and for the mother-country during the war.

Colonial Warfare. — The state of mind I have described as prevailing in our colonies at large was bound to lead to active hostilities wherever geographical conditions permitted. Our possessions marched with two German colonies: Togoland and the Cameroons. What a tempting opportunity it was, for such of our brave troops as were denied the satisfaction of fighting on the Western front, to engage in equally meritorious if less showy operations in those distant parts! For many years our African colonists had been incensed by the covetous attitude of their German neighbours; they had marked the impending danger, and it was with a view to self-protection, as well as in the performance of their duty to France, that they gathered their scattered forces, for the purpose of implanting the French colors on the territory of an arrogant foe.

At home, no doubt, such far-off events, which in any other circumstances would have thrilled public opinion, did not at the time meet with the recognition they deserved; the mighty roar of the guns on the Marne, on the Aisne, on the Yser, in Artois and in Champagne, deafened us to the distant echoes of African warfare. Yet this, too, had its beauty, its grandeur, its heroism, and constitutes too glorious a chapter in the colonial history of the world-conflict, to be passed over without mention.

Togoland. — The conquest of Togoland was accomplished speedily and with comparative ease. As early as August 8th 1914, our Dahomey troops, previously concentrated at Grand-Popo, crossed the border and occupied Petit-Popo and Porto-Seguro, which the Germans had evacuated.

At the same time, British contingents from the Gold Coast entered Lomé, after which the French and British troops, acting as a mixed force under Colonel Bryant, an English officer, started northwards in pursuit of the enemy. After a stiffish fight on August 21st at Chra bridge, they reached the post of Kamina, important on account of its wireless station communicating directly with Berlin. Here, on the 26th, they received the unconditional surrender of the German forces.

And while these events were taking place in the southern part of

the colony, French contingents sweeping down from Upper Senegal and French Nigeria, invaded Northern Togoland by a bold raid that brought them as far as Sausanne-Mango, thus completing within the space of a few weeks the conquest of what had been known as German Togoland.

By the terms of a convention passed at Lomé in the last days of August 1914, the country has been divided into two parts bordering, one on the Gold Coast, the other on Dahomey and administered respectively by the English and by the French, until such time as the ultimate fate of these territories comes up for settlement when the terms of peace are discussed.

From the first, our Senegalese tirailleurs had given ample proof that as fighters they had lost none of those qualities whereby they had been of such great assistance to our command in the course of so many African campaigns. At Chra, notably, a section made up of 1 sergeant, 2 corporals and 14 men, had been placed under the command of an Englishman, Lieutenant Thomson ; in the midst of the fight that officer was killed ; our sharpshooters, faithful to the traditions of their corps, refused to leave the dead body of their leader and held out to the last.

« At the end of the encounter, the enemy having been put to flight, reads the order of the day issued by the General in Command of the West African troops, we found lying by the side of the British officer, the sergeant, the two corporals, nine of the men killed and four wounded... United in death, they seemed to be still keeping watch and ward over the foreign officer who was a stranger to them, but for whom they laid down their lives, because their chief had so ordered them. »

A magnificent example of self-devotion, this, yet only one out of a thousand that have been witnessed during the great war.

The Cameroons. — Incomparably longer and more arduous was the campaign in the Cameroons. The task confronting the Allies was the conquest of some 290.000 square miles of territory — or about half as much again as the area of France— in a difficult region, covered in part by impenetrable tracts of forest and bush, and intersected by rapids and swamps. To these natural defenses, the Germans had added others, applying to the process all the resources of that technical skill they have shown in Continental warfare : forts and blockhouses, with loopholed walls and underground shelters ; deep and shallow trenches ; casemates for machine-guns ; man-holes ; stretches of barbed wire ; ditches, with boards bristling with sharp-pointed nails, etc...

And the accomplishment of so vast an undertaking in spite of supply difficulties, some idea of which may be given by the fact that certain columns had to march more than 600 miles, was entrusted to small contingents numbering barely 15.000 men, with a like number of carriers — effectives that appear ludicrously insignificant,

when compared with the millions facing each other along the European fronts.

The general scheme of operations was simplicity itself, the idea being to invest the country on all sides at once ; by sea and by land from British Nigeria, from the Tchad colony, from Obanghi, from French Gabon, and from Belgian Congo. After which the invading columns, driving the scattered forces of the enemy before them, were to meet at the very heart of the colony.

By the latter half of August 1914, the several columns were in readiness at many points : the Northern force, some 1.100 men strong, first seized the post of Kousseri on the Chari, under the leadership of Colonel Largeau, who after being promoted a general, found a glorious death a few months ago, on the Argonne front ; then, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Brisset, it set out upon its 600 mile raid through the Cameroons.

The Eastern column, under General Aymerich, commanding the troops in Equatorial Africa, with a total complement of 2.500 of all ranks, was divided into two parties, whereof the one, under Lieutenant-Colonel Morisson, marching up-stream along the banks of the Lobaye, recovered the territory here ceded to the Germans in 1911, while the other, under Lieutenant-Colonel Hutin, and comprizing 600 Belgian troops, was to advance from the banks of the Sangha and to penetrate into the Cameroons after liberating the whole Sangha river-basin.

The two Southern columns, about 1.200 strong, led by Lieutenant-Colonel Le Meillour, were given the task of recovering that portion of the Gabon colony seized by the Germans in the vicinity of Spanish Guinea, next invading the Cameroons by their southern borders.

In the West, an expeditionary force of some 5.000 men, subsequently increased to 8.000, made up in practically equal proportions of English and French troops, and commanded by General Dobell, with Colonel Mayer as his French lieutenant, was to seize Duala, the capital, thence moving forward towards Yaoundé.

Finally, various English columns, each numbering about 3.000 of all ranks, were to invade the Cameroons from Nigeria, co-operating at that point with the French forces.

In accordance with this plan, event followed upon event throughout a trying campaign that took up the first twenty months of the war. An uninterrupted series of fights took place, in which our enemies, to do them justice, put up against our brave troops a resistance which was all the more creditable, in that they were completely hemmed in, and could look for no help from without.

A few dates, a few names, a few deeds of valor, stand out in the history of this campaign.

The Northern column, after the capture of Kousseri, attacked Mora. Having subsequently taken Marona, it reached Garoua,

an important post on the Bénoué at the beginning of 1915, here effecting its junction with the British column under Colonel Cunliffe. This post had been strongly fortified by the Germans, 2.000 blacks being engaged upon the work for several months. To reduce it a five months' siege was necessary, during which a 4'7 in. gun sent up from Dakkar was put to excellent use ; on June 10th, the German garrison surrendered, and the next day, when the allied troops entered the place, they were astonished to find a replica on a small scale of the labyrinths constructed by the enemy on our own front. After this, Colonel Brisser successively captured N'gaoundéré, Tibati and Yoko, on his way to Yaoundé.

Between-whiles, he had effected his junction on August 19th, at Koundé, with the Morisson column, which had come from the Lobaye, occupying on its way Carnot and Bania on the Upper Sangha, Baturi on the Kadei, and, after a very sharp encounter, the posts at Moopa and Doumé-Station, consolidated after the model of Garoua.

The Hutin Column had made similar progress on the Lower Sangha, occupied Nola, and likewise made its junction with the Morisson force. Then, after liberating the N'goko river-basin, it had captured Lomé in June, and was bearing in a north-westerly direction.

The Franco-British expeditionary force, after a succesful landing at Duala, had on the one hand occupied Bouea, on the slopes of Mount Cameroun, and the railway to the North, as far as Baré ; on the other, it had seized the railway to the South, down to Edea, and had thrown out patrols eastward.

From all sides, the circle formed by the investing forces was gradually closing in upon Yaoundé, to which the German colonial government had retired after leaving Duala.

It was necessary to bring matters to a head. At a conference in the latter town, attended by M. Merlin, Governor-General of Equatorial Africa and by Generals Aymerich and Dobell, the broad lines were laid down of a concentric attack upon Yaoundé. This was carried into effect during the last quarter of 1915 ; to the North, the East, the South, and the West, the allied columns stormed the different posts in which the enemy was still holding out, and on January 1st 1916, Colonel Haywood rode into Yaoundé at the head of a British force, while General Aymerich came in on January 8th, with 1.500 troops from Equatorial Africa. The Germans had evacuated the town and retired in the direction of Spanish Guinea, with such of their native levies as had remained faithful to them.

Thus ended one of the most successful campaigns in all our Colonial history, a detailed account of which will no doubt be drawn up some day, in a spirit of reverence and gratitude towards the men who carried it through. Descriptions will be given of the harassing marches through the deep forests and treacherous swamps, under the pitiless sun and heavy rains of the Equator, while fevers born of accumulated fatigue and insufficient food would strike down all who were not possessed of almost superhuman powers of endurance.

Mention will be made of the countless fights with a powerfully-armed enemy, securely posted behind intrenchments and determined to hold out in every position nature had fortified for his benefit. All this will constitute a new and well-deserved memorial to our brave African army.

At the present time, the whole territory of the Cameroons has been evacuated by the Germans. The two allied Powers, each in the zone temporarily placed under its juridiction, is proceeding with the organization and general development of the country.

The administration of the territories ceded by us to Germany in 1911 has been made over to the Governor-General of Equatorial Africa. As regards the German Cameroons proper, that portion of the colony occupied by us has been placed under the authority of General Aymerich, in the capacity of Commissioner of the French Republic ; the judiciary services, customs, cables, railways, post and telegraph offices, are under the management of French agents ; French firms have opened branches at Duala, now a port of call for the steamers of the Compagnie des Chargeurs Réunis, on their way to Matadi.

Besides its participation in the conquest of the Cameroons, Equatorial Africa — chiefly by the support of the Chad troops — has contributed to the Anglo-Egyptian occupation of Darfur.

Its assistance has been both indirect, by the massing of our troops on the borders of the Wadai, for the purpose of cutting off all possible line of retreat in that direction for Ali-Dinar, Sultan of Darfur, when he was driven from El Fasher ; and direct, inasmuch as by a parallel and synchronizing operation, they penetrated into the Sila territory, putting to flight its ruler, Bakhit, Ali Dinar's auxiliary, and occupying Goz Beida (May 1916).

Tunis. — It would be unjust, in this short review of our Colonies' effort on their own territory, not to mention the operations carried out in the Far South of the province of Tunis, October 1915, against the marauding bands that had invaded the country from Tripoli, in the course of which operations the garrison at Dehibat achieved a decisive success. Nor is it permissible to pass over the persevering effort of our army of occupation in Morocco.

Morocco. — When war broke out, Morocco, it will be remembered, was in full process of pacification ; a bold dash made by our troops had brought us to Khenifra, thus broadening our hold upon the Middle Atlas, and at last opening up communication between Morocco and Algeria, through the long-coveted gap. Now what was going to happen in this region, of which the tribes, recently subdued by us and still quivering under a tutelage we had not had time to make secure, were thirsting to recover their freedom, while their unconquered kinsmen of the Atlas and the Riff, emboldened by the

trouble in Europe and stirred up moreover by German emissaries, might be expected to renew their attacks?

General Lyautey, whose masterful handling of the situation cannot be too highly praised, was equal to the occasion. He began by strengthening his advanced lines, extending from Taza, through Khenifra and Tadla, to Sous ; after which he sent off a considerable proportion of his best troops to the French front, having in the meantime mobilized all the resident colonists, and received from France a certain number of territorial battalions ; finally, he constituted mobile forces, in constant readiness to be sent to any threatened point, thus insuring the safety of his outposts, while enabling the territory under his rule to attend to its labors in peace and safety. The Exhibition held in Casablanca at this juncture bore living testimony to the truth of the paradoxical statement that « Morocco has actually become more prosperous during the war. »

Many a fine chapter might be filled with accounts of the high deeds of our army of occupation during those long months, as when in November 1914, at El Herri, our troops wiped out the bitter memories of a surprise attack made on us at the selfsame spot, whereby we had suffered grievous losses ; or when, in the spring of 1915, their vigorous onslaught beat back the threatening *harkas* coming down from the Atlas ; or again when in the course of the arduous summer campaign of 1915, they brought to book the turbulent tribes of the Gharb and of the Wergha.

As General Lyautey observes in his report on these operations : « they may be numbered among the most brilliant and the most successful in the history of the conquest of Morocco. »

We way therefore sum up the results of our Colonies' military effort from the outset of hostilities, by saying that it has accomplished the twofold purpose of preserving peace within our own borders and conquering, in conjunction with our Allies, the neighboring territories hitherto under the German flag. It is necessary to dwell upon the importance of these achievements which have earned for all who took part in them, officers and privates, governors and colonists, headmen and natives, the lasting gratitude of the mother-country.

The Colonial Effort on French soil.

But the foregoing is but a part of the effort achieved by our colonies during the great war, wherein they realise that their own destiny is at stake as well as the whole future of the world.

We have seen that they expressed their attachment to the country that made them what they are, by many and unequivocal demonstrations ; they labored strenuously to supply their own requirements for the time being and to do without the assistance they had been in the habit of receiving from the mother-country ; moreover they even crossed their own borders to attack and defeat the enemy. All this

was good, in their opinion, but not yet sufficient. They were determined to do more, and they extended to France, on her own soil, direct assistance such as can but add to the measure of her gratitude. That assistance was of a threefold character : military, economic and financial.

Military co-operation. — This took the shape of sending to France at the very outbreak of hostilities, for purposes of national defense, all the troops that were not strictly required for the safety of the countries in which they were stationed, and, subsidiarily, of recruiting native levies to feed the units at the front and constitute new forces.

Thus, in the first weeks of the war, even before the guns had thundered at Charleroi, a considerable proportion of the 19th Corps, of Algeria, and the division stationed in Tunis, came over to swell the ranks of our army. As at Wissembourg in 1870, the « Turcos » claimed their share of sacrifice and glory, and our splendid African regiments, Zouaves and Tirailleurs, Chasseurs and Spahis, Artillerymen and Sappers, were soon at work to earn fresh laurels. From Morocco, there at once came over a force of more than three divisions, with a brigade of cavalry, two formations of Horse-Artillery and the greater part of the Engineers and other services making up the complement of the several units. Our black troops were represented during the first months of the war by more than 25 battalions from Algeria, Morocco, or Western Africa. Finally, from our different colonies other than those in Northern Africa, more than 1.000 officers and 2.500 non-commissioned officers had hastened back to France, delighted at the prospect, after much campaigning in distant lands, of at last being able to serve on the battlefields at home.

In addition, all the arms and munitions it was found possible to dispense with locally — rifles, cartridges, field and mountain guns and siege ordnance, with their proper supply of ammunition — had likewise been sent over to strengthen our main front. It need hardly be added that, wherever required, the resulting deficiency has since been made good.

Now to this total, what was the contribution made by the native elements of our oversea possessions?

Algeria, where a modified form of conscription was in operation before the war began, gave us in addition to 90.000 French citizens called up by the mobilization, a somewhat smaller number of natives, one half of whom, or thereabouts, were recruited by voluntary enlistment. The Tunis Protectorate afforded us similar aid, proportionately to its population.

Morocco, in which we had been settled a few years only, could not be expected to supply such numerous contingents. The natives enrolled were first organized as auxiliary troops, and subsequently formed into battalions of Tirailleurs and Spahis. As recited in the bill

laid before the Chambers to legalise this transformation : « The understanding, bodily strength and warlike virtues of the Moors, the attachment they already feel for the Protecting Power, their glorious participation since August 1914 in the war against Germany, encourage the belief that the Moorish units will be nowise inferior to the Algerian troops. »

The development of our black army had been under consideration for some years ; in consequence of the growing shortage of men experienced in France, we had contemplated drawing upon the ample stock of our African blacks to eke out our effectives. Unfortunately, in 1914, the necessary organization was still in a very backward state. After sundry measures authorizing voluntary enlistment, a decree was issued on February 8th 1912, by which the term of service of those enrolled was fixed at four years, and the conditions of enlistment and re-enlistment were modified in consequence.

For the sake of proceeding with the utmost caution, it had been decided to recruit but 5.000 men yearly ; but the campaign in Morocco had caused that figure to be increased at once, and as a matter of fact, on August 1st 1914, through the exertions of the late Governor-General Ponty, whose name will ever be associated with these early beginnings, the number of Senegalese Tirailleurs present with the colors, and distributed between Western Africa, Equatorial Africa, Morocco and Madagascar, was close upon 32.000 men.

Another decree, in October 1914, authorized enlistment for the duration of the war.

Moreover, for the purpose of furthering the enrolment of black troops, a decree published in October 1915 raised the special bonus on enlistment, while instituting monthly separation allowances — likewise out of public money — for the family of Tirailleurs in poor circumstances. Pensions were also provided for the widows and children of those killed at the front.

Concurrently, a law passed October 19th, 1915, permitted the drafting into French regiments of natives recruited in the four fully organized communes of Senegal,

A later decree, issued in December 1915 provided for the extension to our colonies at large of the measures applying to Western Africa, as laid down by the October decree. Consequently, enlistment for the duration of the war was thrown open, henceforth, to natives of Indo-China, Madagascar, Equatorial Africa, the Somali Coast, New Caledonia and French Australasian settlements, belonging to « races of approved military aptitude and endowed with the powers of endurance necessary for effective participation in European warfare. »

Lastly, our older colonies, Guadeloupe, French Guyana, Martinique, Reunion Island, where our military laws had been put in operation at the beginning of the war, have contributed some 15.000 men to swell our effectives. Our East Indian settlements too, notwithstanding the special régime under which they are placed, were anxious to co-operate in the good work

As a result, the total number of troops provided up to the present time by the colonies alone, amounts to several hundred thousand men.

How have these troops behaved under fire? Have they borne out the hopes entertained by France regarding them?

Those hopes they more than fulfilled, as History will proclaim some day, and a glorious record it will prove, relating all the deeds of valor accomplished by our native contingents at Charleroi, on the Marne, on the Aisne and on the Yser, in Champagne, in Argonne and in Artois, at Gallipoli and at Verdun, under leaders whom it is sufficient to mention by name — as for instance that eminent soldier, General Gouraud — to show that Colonial expeditions were no mean school wherein to graduate in view of the mighty European struggle.

For the present, we can but read with deep emotion the reports in which those deeds are consigned in a few hurried words, mention being made in dispatches not only of very many individual officers and men, but of practically every unit that has taken part in the war.

We find the first division of Moorish Infantry commended in army orders « for the valor, energy and endurance displayed by all ranks in the engagements on August 28th and September 6, 7th, 8th, and 9th, 1914 », in the course of which Zouaves, Colonials and Tirailleurs all performed their duties with admirable zeal.

The scouts of the 1st and 4th regiments of Spahis, « when detailed to attack a very powerfully organized German fieldwork, formed up in readiness for the assault with the same coolness as on parade ; charged the position, behind their leading officer, with conspicuous dash and held it with the utmost contempt of danger, in spite of the heavy losses inflicted upon them by the German artillery and infantry. »

Here again, we find mention of the 3rd Moorish brigade (9th Zouaves and 1st Composite regiment of Zouaves and Tirailleurs), the 1st Colonial Infantry, the 1st battalion of the 1st African Foot, the 4th and 7th Tirailleurs, the Moorish Tirailleurs of the th division, etc., etc... And always the same glorious recitals : « charged the enemy positions with splendid dash ; took several successive lines of trenches and held the ground they had won, in spite of heavy counter-attacks and a violent bombardment ».

While presenting the regiment of Moorish Tirailleurs with their colors, the President of the Republic, in committing the flag to their safe-keeping, addressed them as follows : « ..You were in action from Sept. 6th to Sept. 10th, to the south of the Saint-Gond marshes ; you beat off the desperate assaults of the Prussian Guard and lent the most valuable assistance to the victorious advance of the Ninth Army. Later, in the month of January, one of your brigades fought heroically in the Nieuport district ; the 7th Tirailleurs dashed forward into the Polder trenches, and one of their platoons, having stormed the Grand Dune, stood their ground until they were killed to a man... »

A gallant captain, who lost an arm at Gallipoli, referring to the

bearing of the Senegalese Tirailleurs in his company, writes in one of his letters to me : « They have all the dauntless impetuosity that distinguished their elders and they showed themselves to be second to none as a striking force, when they hurled themselves into the sea before Koum-Kaleh to storm the village at the point of the bayonet... Their ready obedience is exemplary ; they have never hesitated to leap out of their shelters when the signal was given... Their tenacity has been unrivalled, when commanded by officers they know... They have displayed their traditional love and devotion to their leaders and many have been the obscure heroes among them who have risked their lives to carry their wounded officers or platoon leaders out of the mêlée... »

There is no limit to the number of examples we might quote of the daring and bravery in action of our native troops. As Senator Béranger eloquently expressed it in his report on the advisability of their enrolment : « France in arms has numbered the native units and colonial contingents among the foremost of her striking forces. The new blood of these youthful races has been shed unsparingly whenever it has been called upon to mingle with the old Gallic blood in defense and support of their mother-country against alien aggression. For this reason, to-day, from Paris to the frontier, a common grave is shared by our own offspring and our colonial sons, fair-skinned Gauls, black Africans, brown Berbers, yellow Asiatics, and swarthy West-Indians. »

True, our enemies bitterly reproach us for having drawn up on the battlefields of Europe the representatives of these different races, whom they profess to look upon as their inferiors. Nobody has forgotten the violent campaign they waged before the war against the increase of our North African troops and the recruiting of a black army.

Now, had France cherished the design of using these troops, made up of races in a backward state of civilization for purposes of agression on the old continent of Europe, such a reproach would not have been unreasonable. But what is at stake in the present conflict, forced upon us against our will, if not the very existence of civilization, as represented by the sanctity of treaties, the dignity of nations, and the imprescriptible rights of weaker peoples? Is it not, on the contrary, a peculiarly touching sight, and one the beauty of which will duly be set forth by History, to observe this rallying to the French standards of all those colored races, in their obscure but unerring desire to fight for a nobler ideal, as well as to pay a debt of gratitude to the elder brothers who have brought peace, security and justice into their respective countries? Is it not wholly to our credit — placing ourselves on the higher ground affected by German philosophy — that the sons of our former adversaries are to be found fighting on our side, as for instance the Emir Khaheb, Abd-el-Kader's grandson, a captain of Spahis ; or Ibrahim Dinah Salifou, the son of

the late King of French Guinea, promoted to a lieutenancy in the field and given the Military Cross and the Legion of Honor ; or Abd-el-Kader Mademba, son of the Fama of Sansanding, also appointed a second-lieutenant at Gallipoli ; or the Agha Shraoui, in command of a squadron of Spahis?

Wherefore let us not heed the reproaches cast at us by the enemy, considering rather — as the Lieutenant-Governor of Senegal so aptly put it to the Council-General « that is is one of the Third Republic's foremost titles to glory, and the justification of our liberal and humane colonial policy, to have so thoroughly won over the conquered populations as to find among them at such an early stage numbers of staunch defenders of our land and of our independence. »

Nor should I omit, while speaking of the assistance in men provided by our colonies, to call attention to the supply of labor derived by France from the same quarter. In a war such as that we are engaged in, with all the able-bodied elements of our population called to the colors, and when it is all-essential both to meet the economic requirements of the country and to ensure the production of war-material on a scale exceeding the anticipations of the boldest prophets, a supply of workmen in the prime of life is of paramount importance. In this direction, also, it was natural for our colonies to contribute their effort.

In the month of May last, more than 30.000 colonial laborers were employed in State factories, or in private works engaged on war contracts. Of these some 15.000 came from North Africa (Algeria, Tunis, Morocco) and 15.000 from Indo-China.

They were distributed, according to their aptitudes, among different munition factories, preferably in the South of France : the aviation schools of Pau, Cazaux, Châteauroux, Avord, etc. ; the arsenals at Tarbes, Toulouse, Castres, etc. ; the powder-factories of Saint-Médard, Toulouse, Saint-Chamin, Bassens, Bergerac, Salins-de-Giraud, etc. ; the iron-works of Firminy, Saint-Chamond, etc. ; the workshops of Vénissieux, Moulins, Montluçon, etc.

Again, a certain number of these laborers, chiefly Kabyles, have been put to agricultural work and latterly Annamites have been used as vine dressers in our southern departments.

The recruiting of these natives, moreover, is still being proceeded with in every part of our possessions, in proportion as their employment becomes more general. It has been observed, notably, that our subjects in the Far-East, excelling in delicate manipulations for which skill is required rather than bodily strength, and possessed of the necessary gentleness of touch for the handling of the wounded, make very efficient hospital orderlies, and some 8.000 of them have been recruited for that purpose.

From Madagascar likewise have come hundreds of workmen whose natural abilities are turned to good use in the offices of the Corps of Engineers or of the Commissariat.

Western Africa, which has contributed a highly important military effort, has also lent valuable assistance by supplying our merchant shipping with native sailors and stokers.

Even from New Caledonia and Tahiti have come metalworkers, miners and navvies, in spite of the fact that the local industries, themselves doing a certain amount of war work, need the greater part of the available labor for their own purposes.

Is it necessary to add that every measure has been taken to ensure the welfare of our colonial allies? At the embarkation harbors, none are allowed to sail but those in a fit condition to stand the voyage and perform the service expected from them ; similar precautionary arrangements have been made at home to obviate the danger of the sudden change of climate ; in the quarters allotted to them, special attention is paid to their clothing, to their food, to sanitation generally ; and a few weeks ago, the energetic Director of Colonial Forces at the Ministry for War opened a new Indo-Chinese hospital in Marseilles, where our fellow-workers from the Far-East, when sick or wounded, are carefully attended to.

Moreover, « homes » are now being opened for their comfort in towns where a number of Annamites are stationed, and it is a great satisfaction to me to make special mention of the good work performed in this connection, at Toulouse, by my excellent friend and former colleague, Governor-General Albert Sarraut.

Thus shall these colonial workmen, after a stay in France during which their well being will have been duly cared for, take home to their families not only the material reward for their labours but kindly memories of their mother-country.

Economic participation. — The assistance in men given to her by the colonies is certainly that which was most thankfully accepted by France, nor can devotion and self-sacrifice assume any nobler shape. It would be unjust, however, to undervalue the importance of the supplies in food and raw materials she has likewise derived from her oversea possessions, and the manifold variety of which reflects the diversity of the climes from which they are drawn.

North Africa, where general economic conditions have progressed so markedly during the last few years, notably as regards the development of agricultural production, has exported to France considerable quantities of cereals, wools, wine and early vegetables. Just as it was, in the olden time, the storehouse of the Roman Empire, North Africa made up to a considerable extent for the deficiency in our national economy resulting from the occupation by the Germans of some of our provinces.

Algeria has sent over to France, in round figures, 290.000 tons of wheat, 185.000 tons of barley, 168.000 tons of oats, 300.000.000 gallons of wine ,60.000 head of cattle, 9.000 horses and mules.

Tunis, besides materials for clothing and equipment, has given

us some 100.000 tons of cereals, not to mention the consignments dispatched to England and to Italy.

Morocco, too, by a perfectly undreamed-of miracle, came to the assistance of the mother-country, though as yet but incompletely pacified. In the words of the Resident-General last summer, at the opening of the Casablanca horticultural show : «Whereas for the last ten months, upon so many fields throughout the world, man's old fostermother Earth, has been ploughed by shells alone, and delved but for the purpose of making graves wherein to sow the seed of death, here her fruitful womb has been laid open for the sole purpose of giving birth to life, and yet more life ; for the making of roads, the essential foundations of barter and wealth; for the growing of this fruit, these vegetables and this grain, to be sent over to France as an unlooked-for contribution to her sustenance ; of these flowers, that we may bestow them in armfuls to our troops marching to battle, in armfuls more plentiful still, when they come back crowned with victory ». And Morocco has sent us more than 120.000 tons of different cereals, 60.000 cwt of wool and millions of eggs.

A grand total of over 20.000.000 cwt of cereals has thus been supplied to the Allies by our possessions in North Africa: a noteworthy contribution at a time when communication with Russia is practically cut off, and imports from South America are so onerous by reason of high freightage.

Though inter-communication with France has been grievously restricted for many long months, Indo-China has nevertheless contrived to send us important supplies; 360.000 tons of rice, or products derived therefrom, 115.000 tons of Indian corn and, for the making of munitions, all the available surplus of the local production of alcohol, pyroxilic spirit, and wood-naphta, Cochinchina rubber, Gambodge cotton, and 30.000 tons of various ores from Tonquin (antimony, zinc, lead, etc...)

Not that such consignments were merely intended to make good the deficiency experienced in France ; they also embodied a feeling of close solidarity, which deserves to be more widely known in this country. An address by M. Roume at a Government Council in 1915 contained the following words : « It has appeared to us that the relatively prosperous financial situation of the Colony, at the present time, lays upon us certain duties towards the mother-country, in the unprecedented crisis in which she is placed by the constant drain upon her gold and upon her blood. As a manifestation of our filial love and attachment, we propose to charge to the general budget of Indo-China, to be paid out of reserve funds, the cost of the supplies we have sent, or have undertaken to send to France up to date, amounting to an approximate total of 4.245.000 piastres, or about 11.037,000 francs. »

Such an act of generosity, France will never forget.

Western and Equatorial Africa were likewise extensively put under

contribution as regards their main productions : ground-nuts of Senegal and copra from the shores of the Gulf of Guinea ; Congo, Ivory Coast and French Guinea rubber, so essential for the development of the motor-industry ; hard or common sorts of timber from Gabon and from the Ivory Coast, the need for which increases in proportion as our local reserves become exhausted, while the havoc to be remedied in the near future grows apace ; cotton for the manufacture of explosives ; cattle from the Soudan savannahs, more than 50.000 head of which have been either shipped to France on foot, or slaughtered on the spot and made into frozen meat in an important factory at Lyndiane.

Madagascar has chiefly had to suffer in its economic situation through being unable to receive from France the necessary manufactured goods and through being prevented by freight shortage from exporting the products of her soil. None the less has the island contributed largely to the revictualling of the home-country under the energetic guidance of her Governor, M. Garbit : 400.000 cwt of frozen and 40.000 cwt of tinned meat (at the present time five factories are running, at which some thousand head of cattle are slaughtered daily) ; 16.400 cwt of haricot beans ; 1.460 cwt of copal ; and especially plumbago, of which the average monthly output, now at 1.000 tons, will shortly be doubled to meet the requirements of the Allies for war purposes.

Our three old colonies of Guadeloupe, Martinique and Reunion Island are essentially sugar-producing countries, turning out together some 105 to 110.000 tons per season, and the whole of this production they have placed at the disposal of the mother-country, an especially valuable contribution, now that part of our beetfields are in the hands of the invader. In addition, they have supplied us with rhum, tapioca, fecula, coffee and cocoa.

French Guyana has helped to increase our metallic reserves by shipping over to us more than 3 tons of gold, besides a large quantity of balata and ox-hides.

New Caledonia has been particularly helpful to us by extracting from her mines, and sending to our war factories, over 100.000 tons of nickel ore and 13.000 tons of chrome ore.

Finally our Indian Settlements, the Somali Coast and Saint-Pierre-de-Miquelon, by supplying us respectively with ground-nuts, raw hides and cod, have each contributed according to their means in the revictualling of France.

The above figures suffice to give us an idea of the economic effort — indispensable in certain cases, but valuable in all — achieved by our colonies since the beginning of the war.

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Financial participation. — Nor have they failed to add thereto a financial effort equally worthy of being recorded in its main features.

Needless to say, the war has reacted gravely upon the general situation of our colonies ; the calling up of a great many European agents, indispensable for the smooth running of the trade-factories, the agricultural farms and iron-works ; the sudden closing against us of enemy markets and to a certain extent of those in our more distant possessions ; the restriction of the French market, engrossed in war work ; all these adverse conditions, added to the shortage and almost prohibitive cost of freight, whereby the importation of manufactured goods required for local use has become difficult and onerous, have hampered production and interfered with business generally, thus starving the public revenue and impairing the prosperity of colonial banks and treasuries.

Yet the effects of the war have not been felt everywhere to a like degree. In some places, they have been borne lightly enough : Indo-China, for instance, owing to her marvelously productive rice-fields, to the diversity of her industries, and partly also to her position in the Far-East, beyond the sound of roaring guns, has hitherto been but little affected by the difficulties resulting from the war. Her surplus revenue was more than $8.000.000 in 1914, and $5.000.000 in 1915 (on a total estimate of $ 42.000.000) Similarly, the financial situation in Madagascar has remained prosperous, the budget for the year 1915 showing a surplus of about 4.500.000 francs. Nor have our older colonies suffered very much, favored as they are by the high rates in the sugar-market.

Elsewhere those effects are felt more deeply : Algeria, whose life is so closely bound up with our own, is affected directly by events at home. Just as she suffered in by-gone days, when her communications with the mother-country were interrupted or restricted, so are the same causes to-day attended in her case by the same results. But she is now quite a grown-up person, possessed of good credit and a sound system of taxation, and she faces the present difficulties bravely and philosophically : she paid off the 1914 deficit out of the surplus of 1913 ; she met the deficit of 18.000.000 francs in 1915 out of her reserve funds and by issuing Treasury Bonds, discounted by the Bank of Algeria ; and she is balancing her 1916 budget by means of the same Bonds, and by raising certain old taxes and creating new ones.

Western Africa, whose revenue was derived almost exclusively from Customs duties, naturally found her financial situation jeopardized by the restriction of imports, and the French Parliament has voted her a loan of 15.500.000 francs of public money. It is to be noted, however, that by good management of local budgets, by a

comprehensive policy of retrenchment and partly too thanks to the revival of business, all the colony's expenses have been met hitherto without drawing upon the proffered loan.

Need it be added that Equatorial Africa, devoting her undivided activities to the war in the Cameroons, and having her usual shipments of timber to German ports altogether cut off, has seen her surplus margins dwindle away to vanishing point ; nevertheless, as has been put on record by M. Merlin, the Governor General, « she has contrived to sustain her economic life throughout the land and to meet all her financial obligations out of her own funds and reserves, without having to put the mother-country under contribution.

And in the face of all these hardships, our colonies have made a point of participating in the formidable financial effort laid upon France by the war!

In the first place they answered her calls upon the public by taking up the *Bons* and the *Obligations de la Défense Nationale*, as well as by subscribing to the 5% Loan, through the medium of their treasuries and public banks (Bank of Algeria North African, branches of the French banks, Bank of Equatorial Africa, Banks of the West Indies and Reunion Island.)

As reported recently to the Délégations Financières by M. Lutaud, Algeria has subscribed in all 370.600.000 francs ; Tunis 72.000.000. The Bank of Indo-China, whose operations extend beyond the colony itself to our Indian Settlements, the Somali Coast, New Caledonia and Australasian Settlements, as stated in a report to the Board of Directors, which was read at the General Meeting held in May 1916, received subscriptions in its various branches and counting-houses to a total amount of over 146.000.000 francs.

Furthermore, borne along by the wave of charity that has set in during the war and contributed immense sums of mney for the mitigation of want and distress, our colonies have played their part nobly in this work of relief. A committee founded in Paris for the purpose of distributing the proceeds of the various colonial subsidies, gifts and subscriptions among the victims of the war, had received by the beginning of last May close upon 11.000.000 francs. Of this amount 5.370.000 francs were subscribed by Indo-China, 2.648.000 by Madagascar 1.176.000 by Western Africa, and so forth, each colony contributing relatively to its importance.

In addition, the colonies took a noteworthy part in the organization of the many « Days » for the benefit of sundry deserving objects : Belgian Refugees, Invaded Departments ; War Orphans, etc.

According to the Governor General's report, Algeria contributed over a million francs to various « Days ». Her departments and communes have subscribed more than 3 million francs, and private charity has interested itself materially in all manner of good works, likewise supported in Tunis and in Morocco : War Orphans, Refugees, Aid to the Wounded, local branches of the Red Cross, Soldiers at the

Front, Military Hospitals' Soldiers' Families, etc. Our colonies, in short, have shared to the full in that marvellous demonstration of solidarity which will be, so to speak, the abiding blossom put forth by the war, and will have accomplished so much for the relief of pain and affliction.

Nor were the natives anywise less eager to associate themselves with this generous movement, bestowing their gifts with a good grace that enhances their value : they sent wine, oil, kola nuts, oranges, lemons, dates, tobacco, all the sun-ripened products of their soil, in that pleasing variety so much appreciated by our « poilus » at the front or in hospital.

Such are, with certain unavoidable omissions, the broad features of the effort contributed by our colonies since the war broke out, to assist France in these momentous times. An unstinted effort, indeed, both material and moral, an effort of the arm, of the brain, and of the heart. In the words of M. Boussenot, Deputy for Reunion Island, in a remarkably well-informed essay upon the part played in the war by our colonies : « Those who may formerly have questioned the usefulness of our colonies and shown themselves sceptical as regards the support to be derived from them by the mother-country, cannot but confess at the present time, the error of their views and the injustice of their hasty judgments... At this tragical juncture, France, whether in Europe or in those parts of the different continents where her sons have implanted her flag, has remained one and indivisible ».

Nor is it the least of the great side-issues of this war to find men aasembling from every part of the world at the call of the nations arisen to vindicate the honor and dignity of mankind. Just as England may well pride herself upon the fact that her dominions and her colonies have lent her the support of their mighty resources, so is France entitled to be proud of the ungrudging assistance of her subject or protected races.

As our eminent Colonial Minister, M. Doumergue, so aptly declared in the Chamber of Deputies : « The Colonies have deserved well of the country. »

France will remember her indebtedness, she will see to it that her colonies are provided with the indispensable elements of an ever wider economic development. She will show their inhabitants by a broader, more liberal and more trusting native policy that her gratitude is not a mere name.

All hail to you then, valiant settlers of pre-war days, to whom France owes this supreme consolation, to you, explorers, soldiers, colonists, engineers, administrators and politicians : Brazza, Flatters, Crampel, Foureau, Gentil, Jean Dupuis, Francis Garnier, Henri Rivière, Faidherbe, Courbet, Borgnis-Desbordes, Lamy, Largeau, Galliéni, Ferry, Paul Bert, Ponty, and so many others, whose names are household words.

When you set out on your discoveries, your conquests, or your administrative duties, your love of country it was that led you on. In that colonizing effort, in pursuance of which the old countries of Europe sought out so many far-distant and mysterious lands, you were determined that France, dismembered in 1870, should play an honorable part ; you thought that by virtue of the mildness of her civilization, of her mighty genius, of her splendid past, she was entitled to gather under the folds of her flag some of those untutored races still plunged in the ignorance of early childhood.

And lo ! when in the throes of the most fateful conflict she has ever known, when her very existence is at stake, those races have flocked to her side, have afforded her ,besides their material aid and assistance — all too ineffectual in their own opinion—their moral support and the comfort of their love.

Hail to you again, valiant settlers, and to those of you above all that sleep their last in distant lands soaked with your blood. Soon shall ye be stirred in your graves, for presently, her standards girt with the laurels of victory, France shall turn to you in the fulness of her gratitude, justly acclaiming you as among the direct agents of her victory, and eager withal to give honor where honor is due.

IMP. H. DIÉVAL, PLACE DES VICTOIRES - PARIS

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Imp. Art. « Lux » 131, boul. St-Michel. Paris.

MSH 26379

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